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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION  
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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

Ambassador: Terrorists in Fallujah kill Turkish truck  
drivers - Hurriyet 11/28  
Fury over Fallujah takes thousands to streets in Istanbul -  
Sabah  
Mosul streets turn into killing fields - Milliyet  
Election crisis in Iraq - Hurriyet 11/28  
Minister Tuzmen: Turkey-Russia trade to exceed \$10 billion -  
Aksam  
Ukraine on the brink of collapse - Aksam  
Referendum on division of Ukraine - Milliyet  
Sarkozy a new Napoleon for France - Sabah

##### OPINION MAKERS

Tens of thousands denounce 'cruelty' in Iraq - Yeni Safak  
5,000 civilians killed by chemical weapons in Fallujah -  
Yeni Safak  
'Mystery killings' on the rise in Mosul - Zaman 11/28  
Iraqi elections in jeopardy - Yeni Safak 11/28  
Shiite, Turkmen want Iraq elections on time - Yeni Safak  
Kurds change mind, will participate in Iraq elections -  
Zaman  
PUK: Kirkuk oil is Kurds' future - Radikal 11/28  
Greek Cypriots accelerate acquisition of arms - Yeni Safak  
Athens warns Ankara of possible veto in December -  
Cumhuriyet  
Sharon, Abbas ready for talks - Yeni Safak  
Iran backs down, centrifuge crisis resolved - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

Mass demonstration against US actions in Fallujah: On  
Sunday, 20,000-30,000 people demonstrated in Istanbul  
against US military operations in Fallujah. Several Turkish  
NGOs and some unions joined the rally, which was organized  
by Turkey's banned Islamist leader Necmettin Erbakan's  
Saadet Party (SP). Erbakan strongly criticized the ruling  
AK Party for opening Turkey's airbases and ports to the US  
military during the war in Iraq. The occupation of Iraq,  
carried out by US forces and backed by Zionist Jews, is  
another step forward for a 'Greater Israel,' Erbakan  
claimed. 'The Fallujah operation is carried out against  
Islam, not terror,' he said. Demonstrators carried Iraqi  
flags and burned a US flag while chanting slogans like 'Iraq  
is a hell for non-Muslims,' and 'American bandits out of  
Iraq.' More than 60 people laid wreaths Saturday outside  
the US Embassy in Ankara and the Consulate in Istanbul to  
protest US military operations in Iraq. The Turkish  
consumers' association called for a 24-hour boycott of US-  
made goods.

Ambassador Edelman Interview with "Aksam": In an exclusive  
interview with the Turkish daily "Aksam," US Ambassador Eric  
Edelman characterized false claims in the Turkish press  
about US operations in Fallujah as 'very disturbing.' The  
Ambassador flatly denied allegations that US forces had used  
chemical or nuclear weapons or cluster bombs in Fallujah.  
He stressed that the Embassy had kept the MFA and the Turkish  
military informed about the operation, and said the number  
of civilian casualties was very small given the scale of the  
fighting in Fallujah. The Ambassador rejected any parallel  
between the current situation in Iraq and the war in  
Vietnam. He showed the interviewer photos and documentation  
provided by multinational forces in Iraq to confirm the use  
of mosques by insurgents as weapons caches and fighting  
positions. Edelman stressed that in such a case, mosques  
lose their protected status under the laws of war. He also  
documented multiple laboratories discovered by coalition  
forces in Fallujah which had served as bomb-making factories  
for the insurgents. Photos of Iraqi humanitarian assistance



being distributed to Fallujah civilians accompanied the story in "Aksam."

**'Genocide' tension between the US and Turkey:** Having been accused by parliamentary human rights committee chairman Mehmet Elkatmis of carrying out 'genocide' in Fallujah, US diplomats in Ankara warned the AK Party government that such 'exaggerated' statements could cause damage to US-Turkish relations, papers report. The Americans said that Ankara should not expect Washington to block charges of Armenian genocide if Turks continue to use the term 'genocide' in such an exaggerated way. Washington is also worried about growing criticism coming from PM Erdogan and other prominent figures in the ruling AK Party, papers comment. US Ambassador Eric Edelman has conveyed Washington's 'uneasiness' over the statements made by Elkatmis. Edelman told FM Gul last week that the terrorists were using mosques in Fallujah as arms depots. 'We are fighting against those terrorists who have killed Turks in Iraq,' Edelman said, adding that the insurgents were deliberately taking shelter inside Fallujah mosques in an effort to provoke the Muslim world. Gul reportedly assured Edelman about Turkey's intentions to make its criticism 'constructive.' PM Erdogan recently called on the Islamic countries to unite against 'dominating' forces while criticizing the Fallujah operation. US officials are trying to determine whether such statements reflect a shift in policy, or a domestic political show for the AK Party grassroots, papers speculate.

**US chemical attacks kill 5,000 in Fallujah:** Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak" cites the 'Alwasan.net' webpage in claiming that US forces have killed at least 5,000 civilians in Fallujah, including some by chemical weapons. The report claims that the US army used toxic gas and chemical weapons against civilian homes, shops, and mosques, killing thousands. According to the report, US forces have arrested 3,000 people and raped several women. Half of Fallujah is still controlled by the insurgents, according to the report.

**International meeting on Turkish truckers in Iraq:** A technical meeting is to be held in Ankara soon between Turkey, US and Iraq to discuss the security problems faced by Turkish truck drivers entering Iraq, reports Sunday's "Zaman." The meeting envisages the establishment of 'security pockets' for Turkish convoys inside of Iraqi territory. Diplomatic sources denied claims that Turkish peacekeepers would be deployed in Iraq, saying that such an action would require parliamentary approval.

**Iraqi intellectuals flee country:** Following the US invasion of Iraq last year, 310 academics have been killed by MOSSAD and other intelligence organizations, yesterday's "Yeni Safak" reports. Citing a discussion at a conference held in Cairo to discuss the issue, the report further claims that 17,000 Iraqi intellectuals have fled the country.

**Israel wants Turkey's contribution to solution in Palestine:** Israel is encouraging Turkey to take an effective role in the Middle East peace process in the wake of Arafat's death, Saturday's "Sabah" reports. Israeli foreign ministry Undersecretary Ron Prosor recently paid a visit to Ankara to invite FM Gul to Israel following the December 17 EU Summit. Tel Aviv wants Ankara to send observers for the Palestinian presidential elections and to train Palestinian leaders to facilitate their transition to democracy.

**'Zionism' conference due to open in Ankara:** Israel is to commemorate the father of Zionism, Theodore Herzl, at a conference in Ankara on December 6, "Cumhuriyet" reports. Israeli diplomatic sources said their aim is to explain modern Zionism to those who have distorted opinions of the idea on which the state of Israel is based. "Cumhuriyet" doubts whether high-level AK Party officials will attend the conference.

**Greek Cypriots to 'renew' weaponry:** Greek Cypriot Defense Minister Kiriakos Mavronikolas told the Cypriot daily "Fileleftheros" that Nicosia would 'renew' its old weapons by early 2005 by accelerating their acquisitions program, Turkish papers report. Mavronikolas said they would discuss the issue with Athens as well.

**AKP official offers presidential system for Turkey:** A consultant of PM Erdogan, Prof. Burhan Kuzu, said that a presidential system should be introduced in Turkey before the electoral threshold is reduced to 5 percent for general elections. Monday's "Vatan" reports that Kuzu warned that Turkey's EU hopes would be damaged if the country enters another period of multi-party coalitions. "Vatan" regards some statements by AKP leaders in support of a presidential system as preparation for a transition to the presidential system.

**Putin to visit Turkey:** Russian President Vladimir Putin is



due in Turkey December 5-6, papers report. Putin will discuss with Ankara ways to ease tanker traffic in the Turkish straits, cooperation in the struggle against terrorism, and ending the international isolation of Turkish Cypriots, and various energy issues.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Ukraine; Israel-Palestine

"America Should Look in the Mirror"

Hasan Unal argued in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (11/29): "The US administration is reacting harshly against the criticism in Turkey of its war crimes. Apparently the US Embassy in Ankara voiced its disappointment to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This reminds of past instances in which the US expressed uneasiness about the reaction in Turkey against the war crimes committed in Tal Afar. Interestingly enough, the US feels disturbed when an official statement is added to the reactions in public opinion. The warnings issued by Washington to Ankara in this regard raise the following question: What type of democracy does the US intend to promote? Is the US really expecting to see no reaction from the Turkish public or from the government or parliament while committing war crimes and presenting such horrifying images?"

"Ankara-Washington Fault Line"

Asli Aydintasbas commented in the mass appeal "Sabah" (11/29): "What kind of impact will the latest tension between the US and Turkey have on both countries? Surely, the US will not stop supporting Turkey, and won't switch off the IMF channel due to Erdogan's provocative statements. As a matter of fact, not only the AKP government, but a great portion of the public have anti-American feelings, and the US is well aware of it. Despite this annoyance, Turkey continues to be the sole, valid example and hope for the future of the Middle East. However, the recent problems are proof that the US-Turkish relationship is weakening with every passing day. Washington's stance against Ankara is rather cool. For example, I am not sure the US Administration will make an effort to stop the Armenian genocide resolution from passing in the Congress next April. Recent statements by some in Turkey's governing party that included Islamic references have also bothered some people in Washington. At the same time, Ankara, which politely rejected the US request to upgrade cooperation at Incirlik, is not likely to welcome any further US request concerning Iraq. Although Turkey stands with the West on the issue of Iran's nuclear program, it's heart really isn't in it. Turkey's stance is also rather vague on issues such as Israel, the Greater Middle East, and the Iraqi elections. Hoisting its sail towards Europe, Turkey has placed its relations with Washington on a real fault line."

"The Chaos in Ukraine"

Zafer Atay wrote in the economic-politic "Dunya" (11/29): "The case of Ukraine is a typical communist regime classic. The ruler does everything to win a popular election, including cheating. Yugoslavia tried this when Milosevic declared a victory by changing the vote totals, but in the end it failed. Georgia under Shevardnadze also tried and failed, and Ukraine is the latest on the list. . Things are going toward a chaos in Ukraine, and the President of the country has warned against the possibility of civil war. It remains to be seen whether the opposition will succeed in toppling the ruling figure, who is depending on the stance of the Ukrainian security forces. . The issue is all about the culture of democracy. Those among the former Soviet Republics who have a genuine experience with democracy managed to pass the transition period smoothly. They have even managed to join NATO and the EU. Those who have no historical experience with such a culture are still suffering."

EDELMAN